

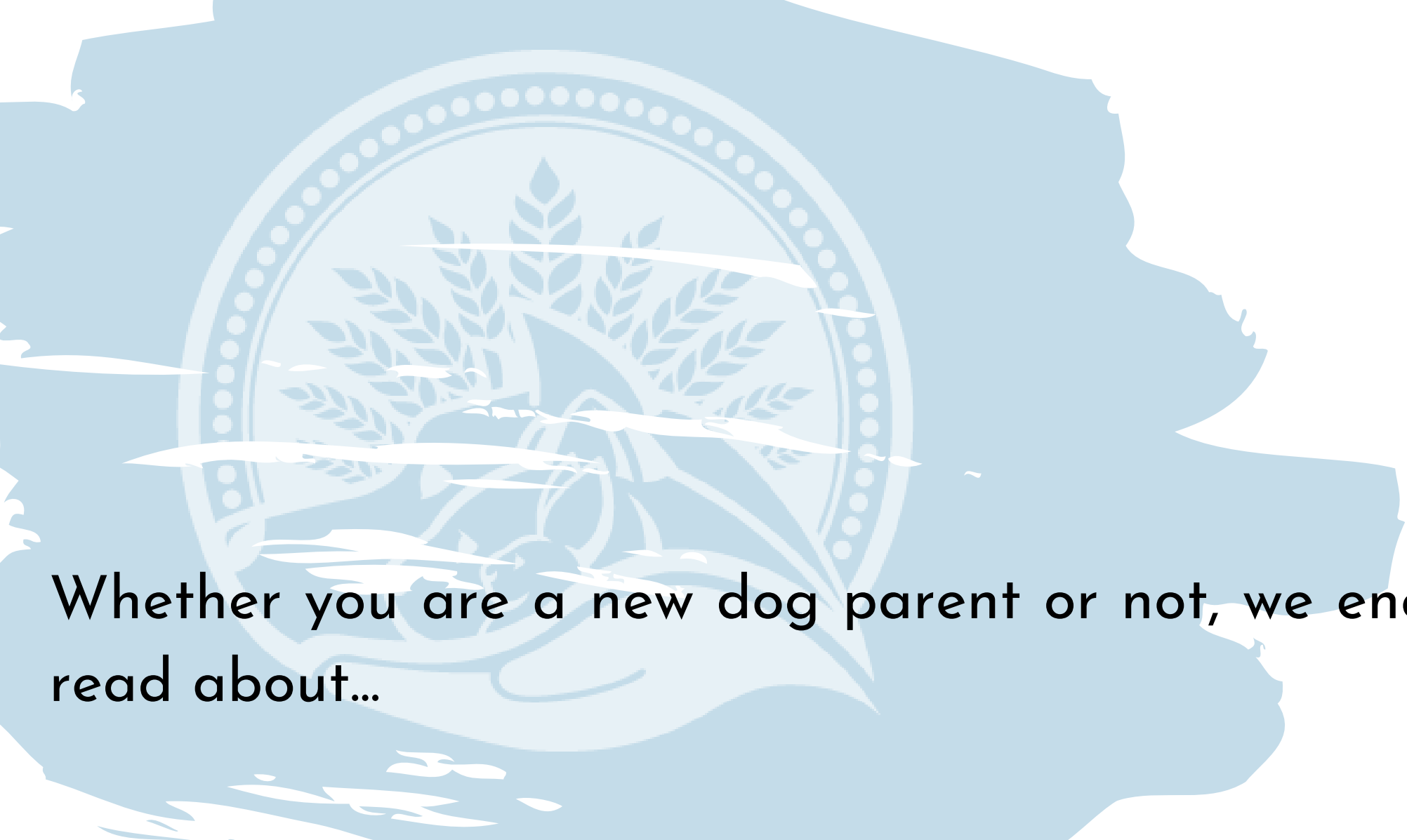
THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING TO

ADOPT

FROM DUPAGE COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES

In this packet you will find information on your new family member and how to best care for them.





Whether you are a new dog parent or not, we encourage you to flip through to read about...

- The Do's and Don'ts of bringing home a new dog
- Feeding
- Exercise
- Enrichment and play
- Grooming
- Canine communication and body language
- Training
- Introductions with other pets
- Pet owner FAQs
- DuPage County Certified Dog Trainers

Supply Checklist

- ☐ Collar
- ☐ Leash
- ☐ Harness
- ☐ Food and water bowls
- ☐ Crate
- ☐ Toys
- ☐ Bed
- ☐ Treats
- ☐ Brush
- ☐ I.D. Tag
- ☐ Poop bags or pooper scooper

If you have any questions, concerns or just want to give us an update on how things are going, please don't hesitate to reach out via phone, email, or Facebook messenger!

You can also stay updated on everything happening at DCAS by following us on social media...



@DuPageCACC



@DuPageCAS



@DuPageCAS

630-407-2800

animalservices@dupageco.org

www.dupageco.org/animalservices

✓ DO's and DON'Ts ✗

OF BRINGING HOME YOUR NEW DOG

✓ Plan and gather supplies beforehand

✓ Make sure everyone in the household is on board with bringing home your new pet and all agree to remain consistent with training and establishing a routine.

✓ Make your home a safe space for your new pet. You should pet-proof, like picking up children's toys from the floor or locking away the garbage.

✓ Do a little research on the type/breed of dog you are looking for. This will help you determine if the energy level is a good fit for your home and if you can financially support them (grooming, type/amount of food, future medical concerns, etc.).

✓ Register your new dog's microchip and attach an I.D. tag to their collar ASAP

✓ Pay attention to their body language and take it slow when you first bring them home. Your new dog may seem a little different than they did at the shelter. A home with new sights, smells, sounds, and people can be very overwhelming!

✓ Be prepared to give your dog regular exercise. You could take them for a walk or play in the yard. You can also give them treat puzzles or chew toys to keep them busy.

✓ Plan to take your new dog to the vet within the first few weeks of adopting.

✓ Prepare for a long term commitment. The average lifespan of a dog is 10-15 years.

✗ Don't expect your new dog to know everything immediately upon arrival. Remember that training takes time.

✗ Don't get upset if your new dog misbehaves and reward them when they are doing well.

✗ Don't do too much with your new dog:

- Avoid having parties, guests and other dogs over and don't bring your new dog to other's homes or an off-leash area for the first few weeks.
- Avoid baths and nail trimming. If grooming is necessary, seek professional help.

✗ Don't immediately introduce your new dog to other pets in the home.

✗ Don't leave children alone with your new dog and make it clear pets are not toys.

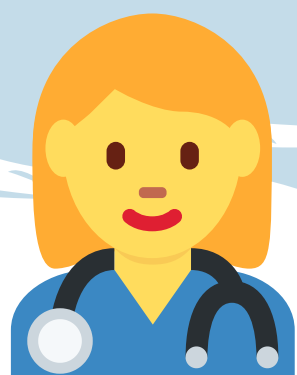
✗ Don't use the crate as a "time out" place or form of punishment for your new dog. The crate should be a safe place your dog feels comfortable in.

✗ Don't forget to talk to your vet about flea/tick and heartworm prevention.

✗ Don't be afraid to ask for help! DCAS is here to answer any questions or concerns you may have!

THE CARE YOUR DOG HAS RECEIVED FROM DCAS

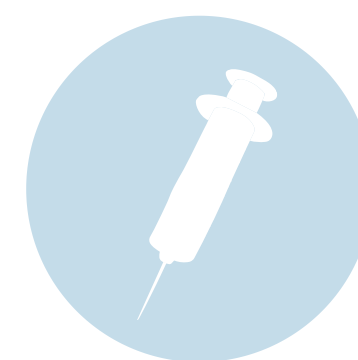
VETERINARY CARE



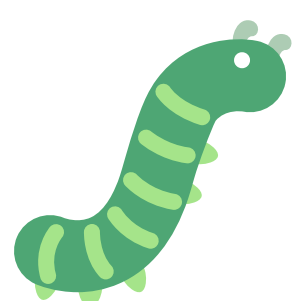
Your dog has been examined by the DuPage County Animal Services veterinarian. At this time, we determine their overall condition and age if it was unknown, as well as the need for further testing or surgical care. This information will be noted on the Canine Medical Record included in your adoption folder. Although we have done a medical exam, we do ask that you take your new dog to your veterinarian within the first two weeks so they can review the care we have provided and guide you in future care.

VACCINATIONS AND TESTING

All dogs at DCAS have received the Canine Distemper and Bordetella vaccines. Dogs over 4 months of age have received a Rabies vaccination. They have also been tested for Heartworm.



PARASITE CONTROL



While we do not test each animal for internal parasites unless symptoms of infection are observed, your dog has still received some medications for parasite prevention. These cover internal & external parasites commonly seen in dogs including fleas, ticks, roundworm, hookworm, tapeworm, whipworm, heartworm, and ear mites. We recommend bringing a fecal sample to your veterinarian to test for additional parasites.

MICROCHIP

Every animal that leaves DCAS receives a microchip because it will significantly increase the chance of being reunited with your pet if they are to ever be lost. The microchip is implanted under the skin between the shoulder blades. It uses passive radio-frequency identification (RFID). Although it does not provide a real-time location like GPS, it does provide a permanent way for you to be contacted.



Remember to keep your contact information up-to-date with the microchip company when moving or changing phone numbers!

DAILY CARE

FEEDING

A quality dry food provides a well-balanced diet for most dogs. You can choose to mix it with water, broth, or canned food. Whatever brand you choose, make sure to purchase the correct formula for your pet. Breed, size, age, and activity level will affect their nutritional needs.

Puppies should be fed a few times throughout the day while adults and seniors are fine with one to two meals each day. The key is ensuring the proper daily portions are given, regardless of the method. Most food packages will include recommended portions based on your dog's weight. You can also consult your veterinarian if you're unsure. Obesity is a serious issue that causes health conditions like arthritis, heart disease, and breathing problems. Obesity will also affect their mobility and lead to even more health concerns. Dogs will often eat well beyond what they should when allowed. It is up to us to keep our dog at a healthy weight with correctly proportioned meals.

Always provide fresh, clean water, and don't forget to wash their bowls regularly as this eliminates bacterial growth and spread.

EXERCISE

Dogs need exercise to burn calories, stimulate their minds, and stay healthy. Individual exercise needs vary based on the type of dog, age, and health. Exercise also tends to help dogs avoid boredom, which can lead to destructive behaviors. Many dogs tend to start looking for trouble when they get bored. Additionally, adequate exercise will keep your dog agile and limber, reduce tummy troubles, improve sleep quality, and boost confidence. Regular walks are even good for dogs that have fenced yards at their home. It is a common misconception that giving your dog access to a yard means they are getting all the exercise they need.

ENRICHMENT and PLAY

Enrichment is just a fancy word for expressing natural behaviors to stay busy such as playing, chasing, smelling, chewing, and scavenging. Like with regular exercise, your pet will be physically and mentally stimulated by allowing them the proper outlet for these behaviors. Dogs who do not receive stimulation tend to enrich themselves and end up getting into trouble. The amount of enrichment your dog needs will depend on their age, breed, and activity level. Enrichment for your dog comes in many forms including chew toys, food puzzles, or a long walk where they are allowed to sniff and explore. Visit page 18 of this packet to find out more.

GROOMING

Dogs come with many different coat lengths that can range from short to long. It is important to care for them properly to keep them comfortable and healthy.

Most short-haired dogs may only need to be bathed a few times a year depending on how much time they spend outdoors. They can be brushed regularly to help with shedding and overall health of the coat. Longer haired dogs will need to be brushed more frequently and often need professional grooming to prevent tangling and matting of the hair. Depending on the type of dog, grooming could be required every one to two months.

Nail trims are essential for all dogs. Without proper care, it can lead to serious long term issues, like arthritis. In the short term, nails that are not kept trimmed can be uncomfortable for the dog and lead to the nails breaking with the possibility of infection.

A dog's oral hygiene is often overlooked by its owners. Preventing dental diseases plays an important role in keeping your dog healthy. A high-quality diet and safe chew toys are great ways to keep your dog's mouth healthy.

THE FIRST FEW DAYS WITH YOUR NEW DOG

Bringing a new dog home is an exciting time for everyone. The transition from shelter-life to home-life can be very stressful for even the most easygoing dogs. They are going to need time to adjust, and you are going to need time to learn about their needs.

BEFORE BRINGING THEM HOME

As tempting as it is to let your dog have the run of the house, its too much freedom too soon. Instead, designate a confined space to be their safe zone while acclimating to their new home. It should be a quiet area, away from the main traffic of your home. But close enough that your dog can see and hear what is happening. Put a bed, food and water bowls, toys, and a crate (if you plan on crate training him) in this area. You can section off a corner of the living room or kitchen, or any room that is easy to block off. This space should be easy to clean in case your dog is not housebroken or forgot their previous training. Wherever you choose, make sure your dog does not have access to the whole house unless you are there to supervise.

Establishing a routine with your new dog is essential. Dogs do better on a schedule. Knowing the routine eliminates stress and helps your dog understand what you expect from them. Make sure all family members understand the importance of maintaining a schedule. Some things you can discuss before bringing your new dog home are:

- What time and who will be taking the dog outside first thing in the morning/last thing before bed?
- What times will you feed your dog?
- When and how will they be getting exercise?
- What rules do you want your dog to follow? (Will they be allowed on furniture, where will they sleep at night, etc.)

THE FIRST DAY

Go straight home after picking your new dog up from the shelter without making any stops. Do not bring your dog to the pet store to pick up supplies. Your dog will need more time with you before being comfortable running any errands.

When you first get home, take them on a walk or bathroom break. Once you bring them inside, allow them to explore your home while still attached to the leash.

Lead them to their "safe space" and use plenty of treats to entice them to go in. Once inside, you can remove the leash and give them something to do (like a peanut butter stuffed toy or chew toy) and leave them alone. Many dogs want to sleep once coming home and need time to decompress. Keep the noise level in the home down and keep children and other pets away from your new dog's space. Do not have any guests come over to your home to meet your new dog.

THE FOLLOWING WEEKS

It is common not to see your dog's true personality until several weeks after adopting them. In the days following bringing your new dog home, keep calm and quiet, limiting too much excitement (such as going to the dog park or throwing a party). Each dog takes a different amount of time to adjust to their new home. Their "safe space" should be where they spend most of their time. If there are no other pets in the home you can allow your new dog to be in other parts of the house as long as someone is there to supervise (check pages 16 & 17 for introducing your dog to your other pets). They should not have full freedom of your home until you are confident they will stay out of trouble.

For a more in depth description, refer to the *Sound Beginning* booklet (pages 4-16)

HOW YOUR DOG COMMUNICATES

During those first few months, you and your dog are going to get to know each other. Dogs primarily use nonverbal communication. Understanding how your dog is communicating will help smooth the transition into your home and build a lasting relationship with you and your family. Spending plenty of time observing your dog in different situations can give you a sense of what your dog is feeling. Each dog is an individual and will express things a little differently. Look for clues provided by the look in their eyes, the tone of their voice, the position of their ears and body, and the motion of their tail. Always look at the entire body of the dog and take into consideration what is going on around you.

TAIL WAGS

It is a common misconception that a dog with a wagging tail is a happy, friendly dog. There are many variations of the tail wag, and they can mean many different things. You should always look at the whole dog but you can follow these guidelines as a starting point.

- A loose tail wag with a wiggling body can generally be interpreted as a happy dog. Usually, a higher speed wag is an indication of a more excited dog.
- A stiff tail wag held straight up should not be interpreted as friendly. It may be an indication of some kind of arousal. If the rest of the dog's body is stiff or they are intensely staring at something, you should try to distract them and move them out of that situation.
- A stiff tail wag held low is an indication of insecurity. Let this dog approach you, sniff, and relax before petting them.
- A tail tucked (wagging or not) is an indication of a fearful or insecure dog. If you notice your new dog doing this as you approach, move back and give them some time to relax.

STRESS SIGNALS

When a dog is stressed, they often display normal behaviors out of context. This indicates conflict or anxiety. You will likely see many of these behaviors as your dog adjusts. Some typical stress related behaviors are:

- yawning
- panting when it is not hot
- licking lips or flicking tongue over nose
- looking away as a person or other dog approaches

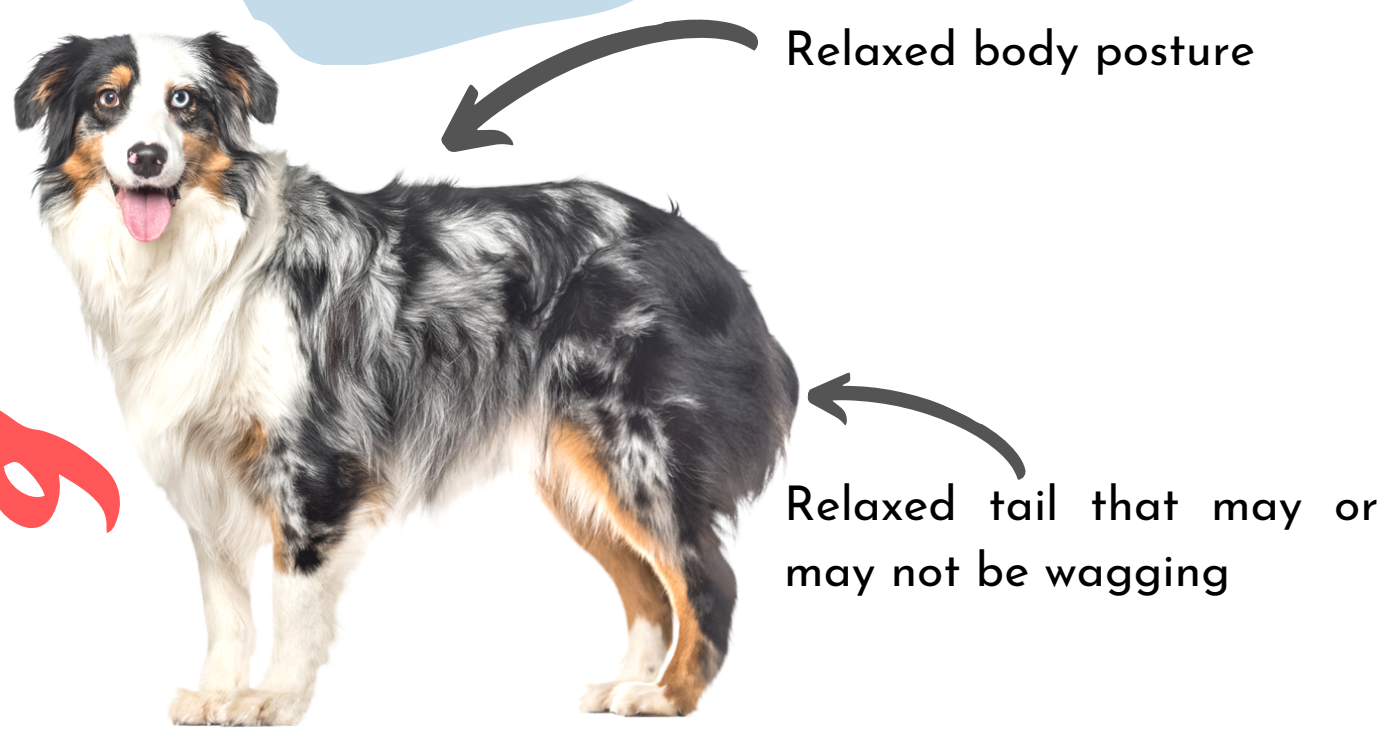
With these behaviors, you should take into consideration the situation your dog is in. For example, if you notice your dog begins to lick their lips when your child hugs them, then your dog is uncomfortable (hugging is something most dogs do not enjoy, even after they get to know someone). However, if they are licking their lips and they just finished eating a meal, they likely are not stressed.

VOCALIZATIONS

Many people reprimand their dog for growling, but that is just discouraging them from communicating they are uncomfortable. Punishing them for growling may lead your dog to take more drastic measures the next time they are in the same situation (like snap or bite). If your dog is growling, stop what you are doing and try to determine what is causing them to react that way. For our dogs to be comfortable communicating their frustrations with us, we must be respectful of what they are trying to say.



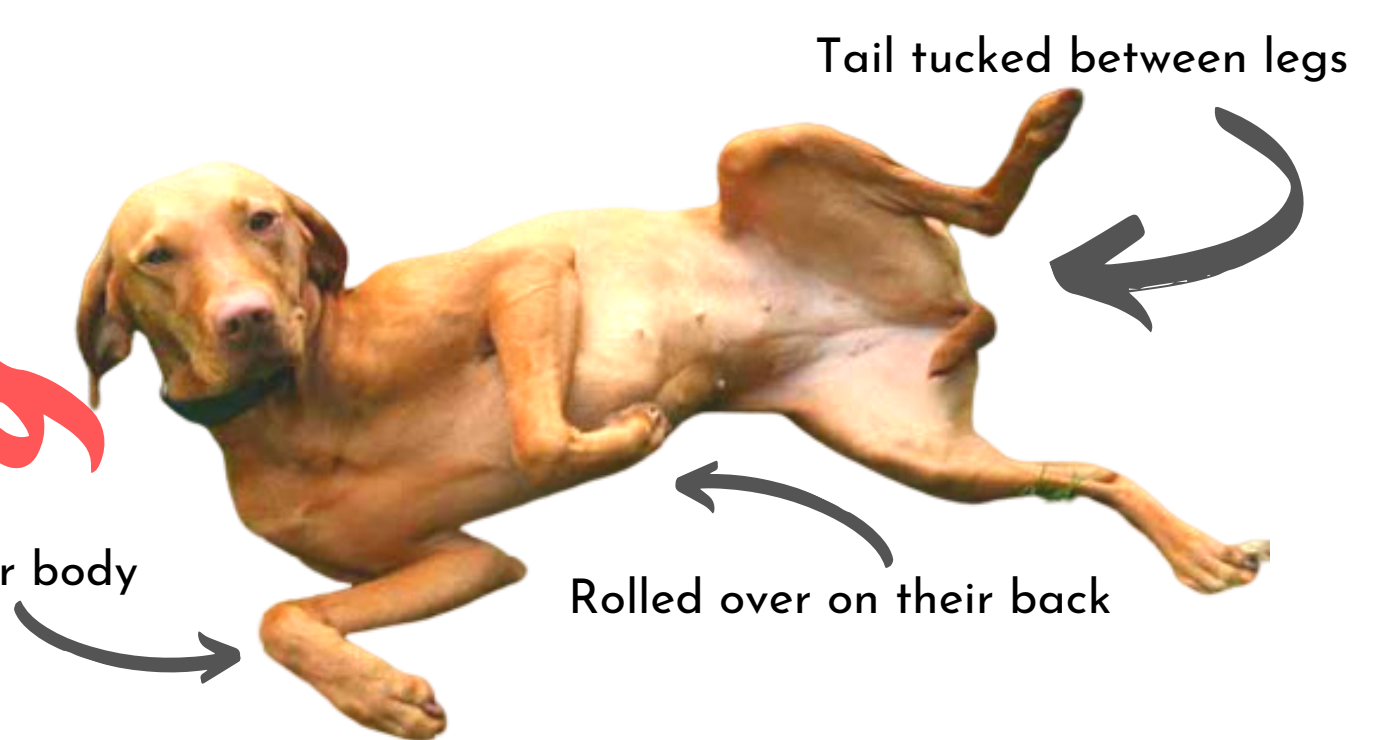
UNDERSTANDING BODY LANGUAGE



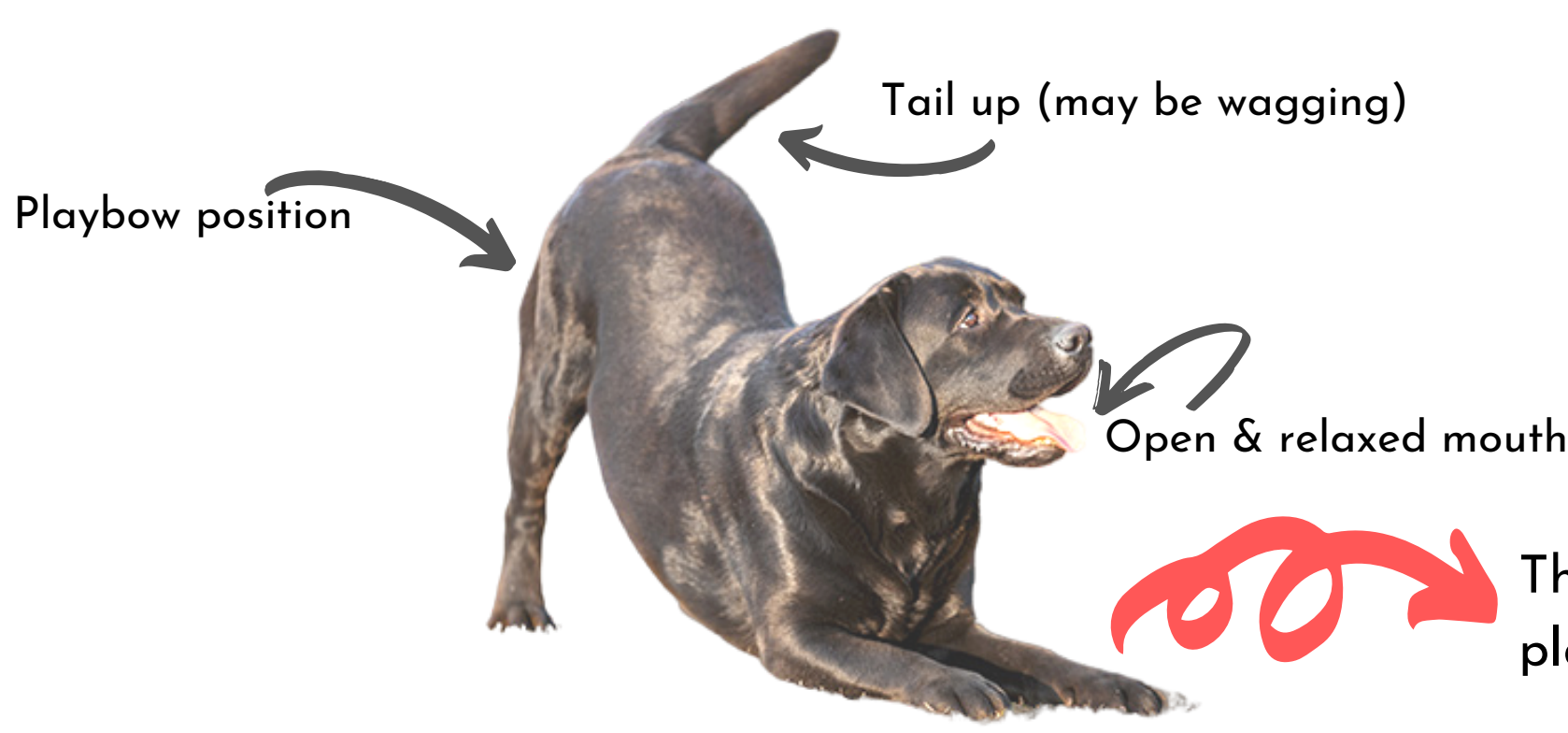
This is a **NEUTRAL & CALM** dog. This dog is safe to pet. There is no tension in the face or body. They may be panting or have their tongue hanging out the side of their mouth.



This is a **RELAXED** dog. It is usually safe to pet this dog, but make sure they are not sleeping before you do. They may get frightened if woken unexpectedly.

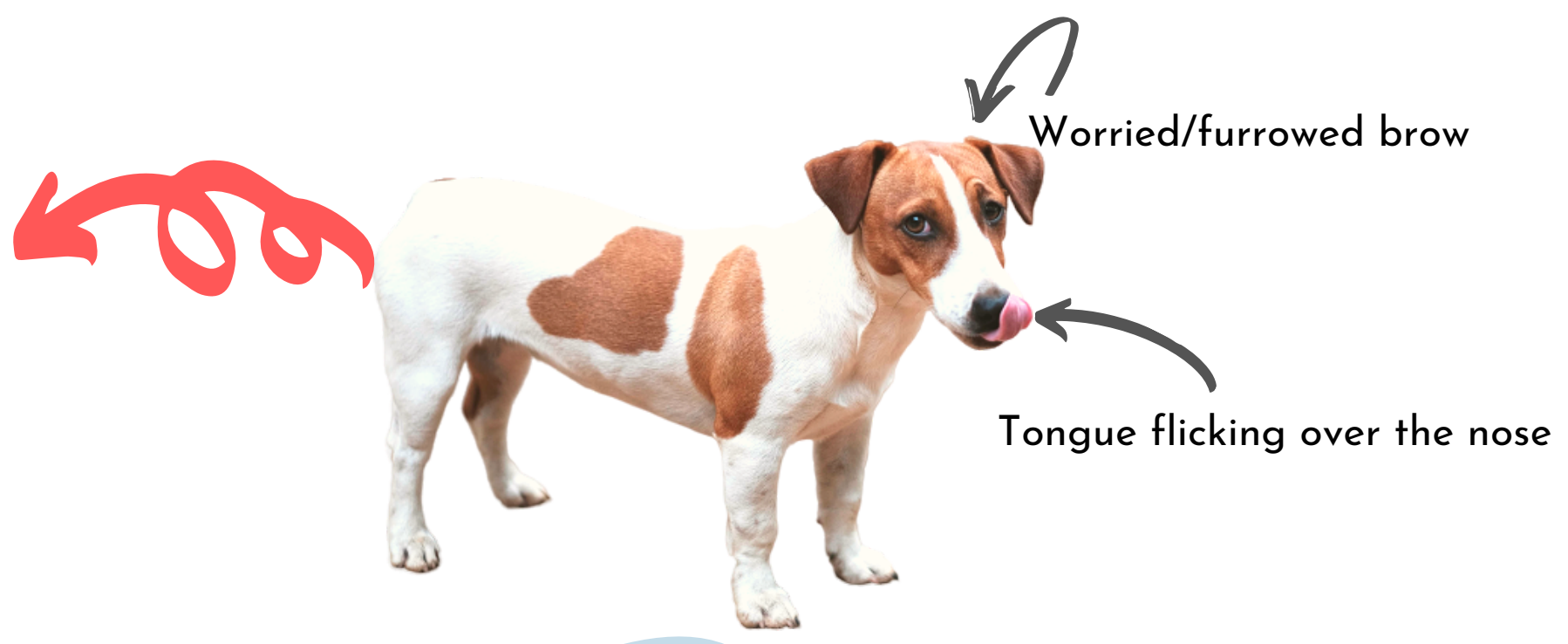


This is a **SUBMISSIVE** dog. This dog is telling others, "I give up, please don't hurt me."

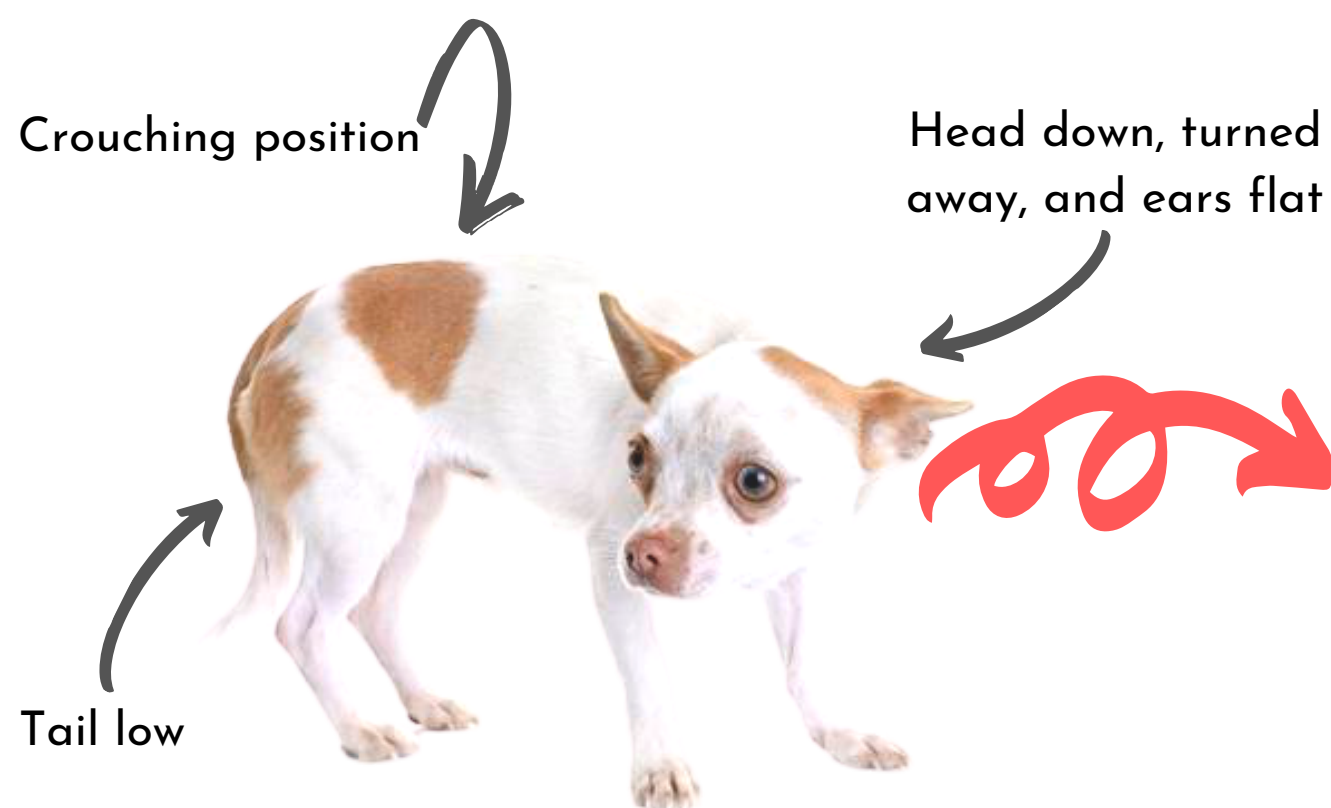
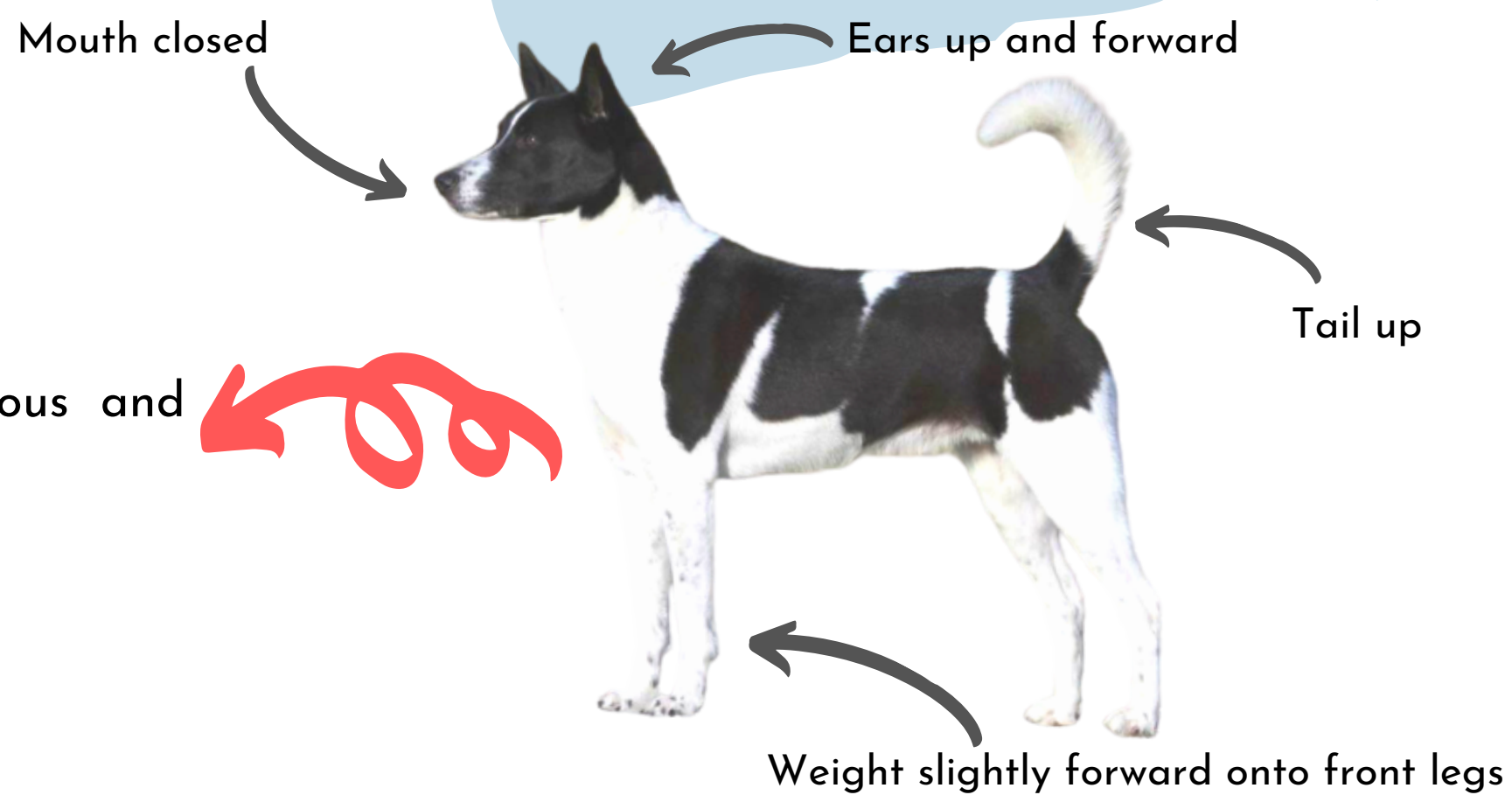


This is a **PLAYFUL** dog. This dog is inviting others to come play! A playful dog typically has very bouncy movements.

This is an **ANXIOUS/STRESSED** dog. This dog is feeling uncomfortable with something. It is up to you to determine what is making your dog feel uneasy. It is best not to pet this dog or force them to interact with someone or something.

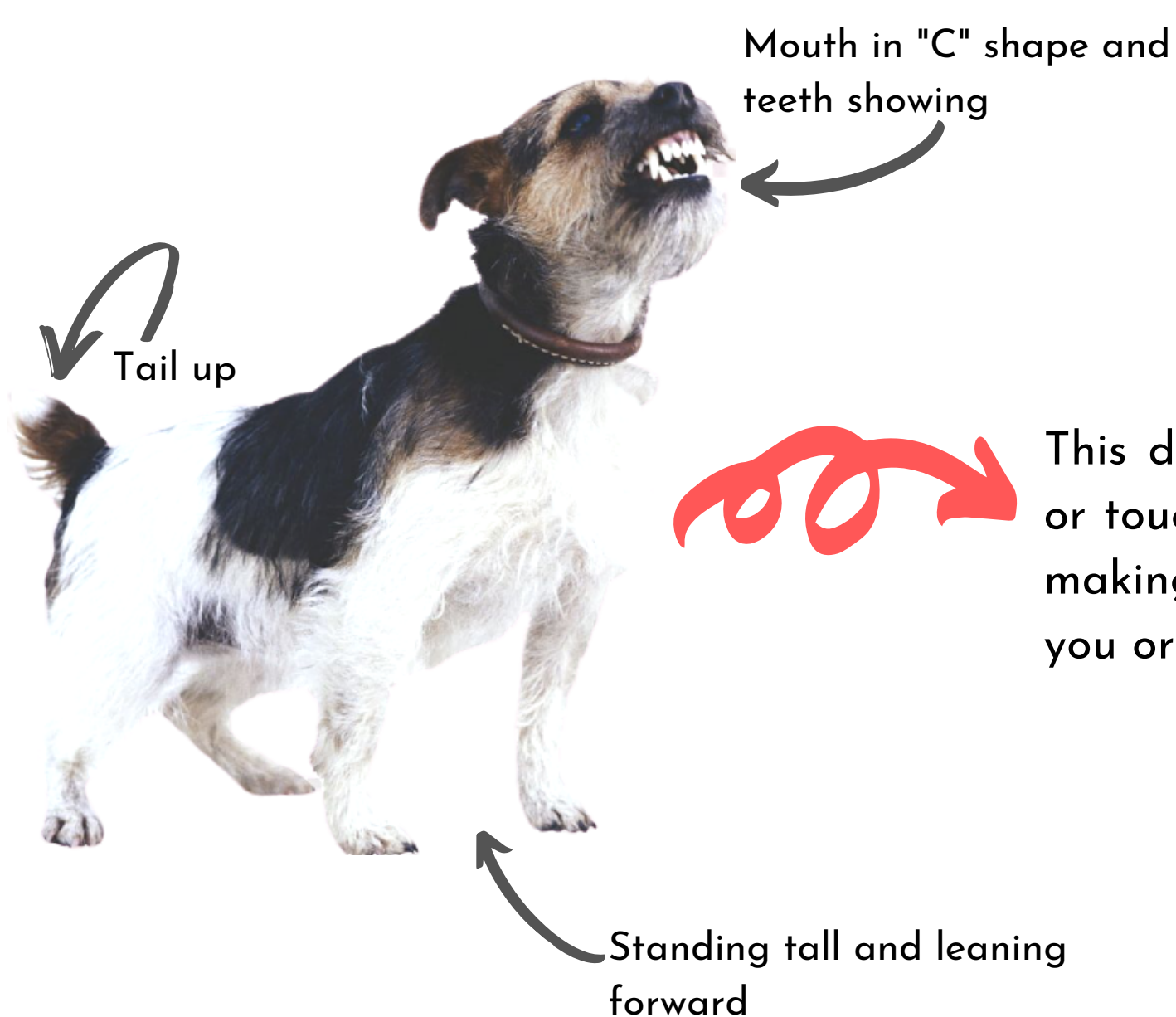
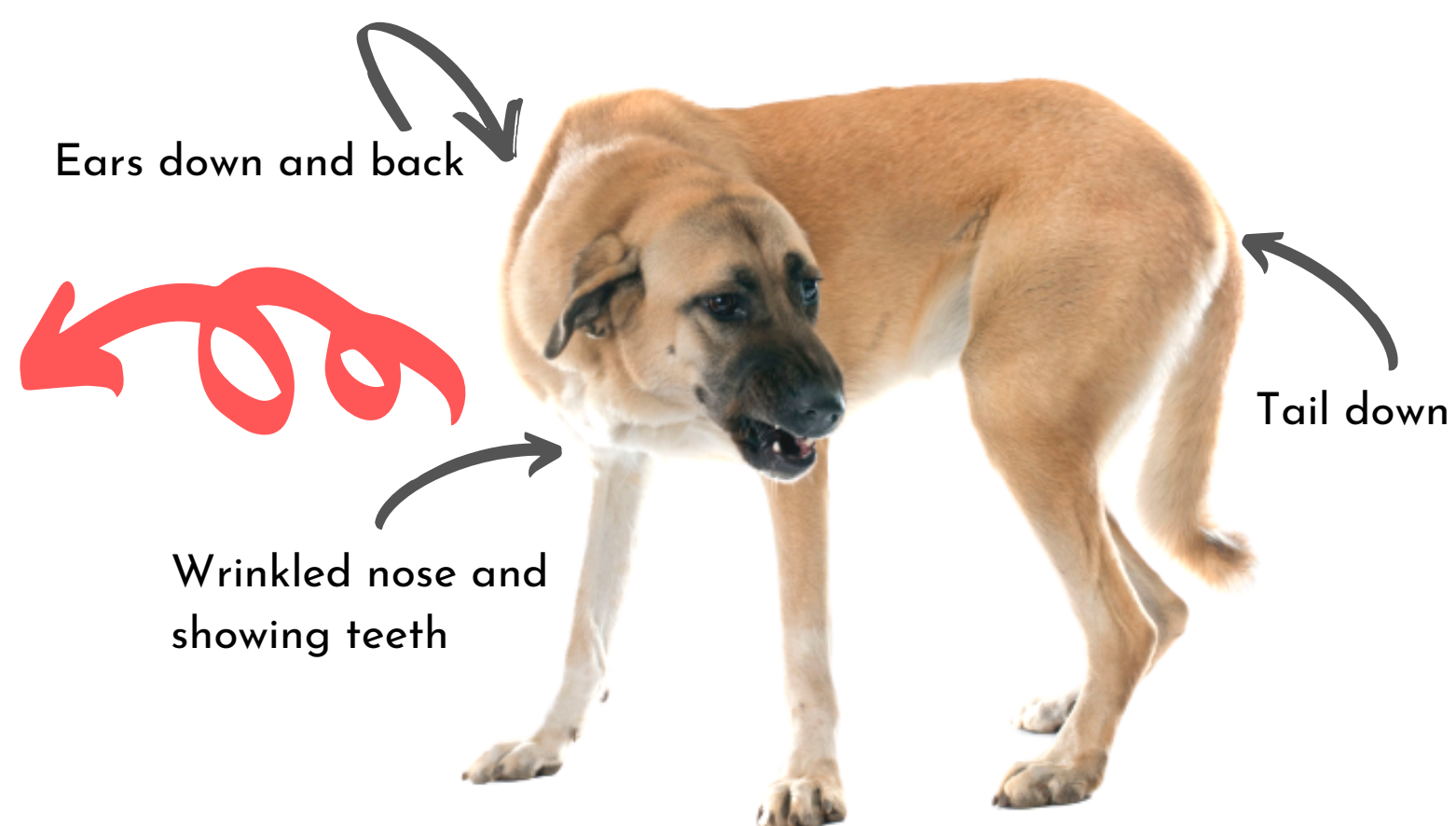


This is an **ALERT** dog. This dog is very curious and interested in what is going on.



This is a **FEARFUL** dog. This is a dog you do not want to approach. They are politely asking you to move away from them. A dog in this position may feel the need to defend themselves if whatever is threatening them continues.

This dog is acting **DEFENSIVELY**. This dog is extremely fearful and you should not approach or touch him. We can not hear him but he is most likely growling. Dogs usually will try to run from the thing that is frightening them but they will become defensive if they are unable to get away. The body language of this dog is very similar to the fearful dog. Whatever was making him uncomfortable did not stop and he may bite if it continues.



This dog is displaying **AGGRESSIVE** behavior. You should not approach or touch this dog. They feel the need to be assertive in this situation and making themselves look larger to be more intimidating. They are telling you or whatever they are looking at to go away.

WHAT IS THE BEST WAY TO TRAIN YOUR DOG?

Using a force and fear-free method to train your new dog will help them create a lasting bond with you and a happy environment where they feel safe to live. Your new dog will have fun learning and learn faster if it is a positive experience that rewards them frequently. The general rule for positive reinforcement training is to reward the behaviors you want and ignore the ones you don't. The key is to be consistent and give a reward at the correct time. If you are trying to teach your dog to sit, give them a treat immediately. Do not reward them if they have already stood back up.

Try your best not to unintentionally reward undesired behaviors. For instance, if your dog is jumping on you, turn away and ignore it. A dog can see being pushed off or told "no" as a reward. To them, bad attention is better than nothing at all. Instead of inadvertently rewarding your dog's bad behavior, try to teach them something to replace it. They learn that jumping doesn't get them what they want if you only give your dog that attention when all four paws are on the floor.

Finding what motivates your new pet will be extremely helpful for training them. Rewards can come in many different forms such as tasty treats, petting, praise, or a favorite toy. When your dog is learning a new behavior it is important to reward them EVERY time they perform that behavior. As they start to get the hang of it, you can slowly decrease the number of times you reward them. On pages 18 & 19 of this packet, you will find a list of certified dog trainers in DuPage County if you are looking for more training help.



The lure-and-reward-method uses a treat to lure your dog into performing different behaviors. Simply hold a tasty treat to your dog's nose then slowly move it around to get them to move the way you want. The treat acts as a magnet for your dog's nose, and where their head goes, their body will follow! This method works great for learning some of the basics, like sit, down, name recognition, and go to bed/crate.

TRAINING TIPS

- ★ Keep training sessions short (5-10 minutes)
- ★ Practice a few times each day
- ★ Keep it fun. If you or your dog is getting frustrated - try again later!
- ★ Work on training your dog in a space that has very few distractions

TEACHING YOUR DOG TO "TRADE"

It is important to never take something from your dog without giving them something of higher value (like a treat in exchange for them dropping their toy) in return. Taking something from your dog without trading can cause them to fear losing their prized possessions (AKA their resources). A dog's resources can include its toys, food, or even something they pick up on a walk. Each dog places a different value on each of their resources. Teaching them to "trade", instead of snatching things out of their mouth, helps keep your dog from worrying you are going to take their stuff away and developing future behavior problems.

LEASH WALKING

Dogs that pull excessively walking on the leash can be difficult for most owners regardless of the dog or owner's size. DCAS recommends using a front clipping harness and a six-foot leash. The following are two great ways to teach your dog leash manners.

- Red light/green light:
 - You **STOP** walking (red light) as soon as there is tension in the leash.
 - When the dog comes back to you and the leash is loose: you **GO** (green light).
- Crazy Walking:
 - You walk all over the place, back and forth, changing direction and being erratic about where you walk. This keeps your dog guessing and keeps their attention on you.

Whatever method you use, bring treats and reward your dog when they check in with you.

Teaching them to walk politely on leash lets your dog sniff and explore while staying within the limits of the leash. Though you may be tempted to yank the leash to keep your dog at your side on a walk, it is important to allow them to have some freedom and use their nose. Getting to sniff around is great for your dog mentally and makes them feel more at ease.

DCAS does not recommend the use of retractable leashes. Retractable leashes can be dangerous for you, your pet and others nearby. Additionally, they can be counterproductive when training your dog leash manners. They are designed to teach your dog to pull.

THE PROBLEM WITH PUNISHMENT

For decades, some traditional animal trainers have relied on the dominance theory. The idea often leads trainers to believe that force/punishment must be used to modify undesirable behaviors. However, this method of training can cause animals to develop a negative association with the person implementing it. Fear and anxiety are common causes of behavior problems and the use of punishment can intensify the problem and make your dog's fear worse. Yelling or using any kind of force can damage the bond you are trying to form with your new pet. It is a common myth that a dog's owner needs to be the "alpha" in order for them learn to behave appropriately. You can still obtain leadership through evidence-based positive means. The use of prong, shock, or choke collars are also not recommended as they can cause physical and emotional harm.

HUMANE ALTERNATIVES TO PRONG, CHOKE AND SHOCK COLLARS

Flat or rolled collar



- Used to attach identification, rabies and microchip tags

Martingale collar



- Good for dogs with narrow heads that can easily slip out of other collars
- Adjustable and distributes pressure around the whole neck

Front clip harness



- Great for loose-leash training
- Redirects dog's attention by turning their body instead of applying pressure to the neck.
- Can be used for dogs of all shapes and sizes.

Back clip harness



- Good for dogs with airway related medical issues.

Head harness



- Good for loose-leash training
- Redirects dog's attention towards their human.

CRATE TRAINING

The crate will become your dog's den, an ideal spot to snooze or take refuge during a thunderstorm. The primary use for a crate is house training, dogs do not like to soil in their dens. The crate can also limit access to the rest of the house while your new dog learns other rules, like not to chew on furniture. When crate training is done properly, your dog is happy to spend time there when needed. It is important to NEVER use the crate as a punishment (such as a "time out" for misbehaving). Your dog will come to fear it and refuse to enter it. If you are crate training a puppy, they should not stay in the crate longer than 3-4 hours because they can not hold it before needing to go outside. Once you trust your dog not to make a mess in the house, it should be a place they go into voluntarily. Crate training can take a few days or many weeks depending on your dog's age, temperament and past experiences. Follow these steps to make the process as easy as possible.

STEP ONE: SELECTING A CRATE

Crates come in all different sizes. The crate you select for your dog should be large enough for your dog to stand up and turn around in. If the dog is still growing purchase a crate that will accommodate their adult size. Block off extra space so your dog can't eliminate at one end and lay down in the other.



STEP TWO: INTRODUCE YOUR DOG TO THE CRATE

Place the crate in an area of the house where the family spends a lot of time. Put a soft blanket or towel in the crate. Take the door off or prop it open and let your dog explore the crate at their leisure.

Some dogs are naturally curious and start sleeping in the crate right away. If yours isn't one of them:

- Bring them over to the crate and talk to them in a happy voice. Make sure the door is open and secure so it doesn't accidentally hit and frighten them.
- Encourage your dog to enter the crate by dropping treats nearby, then just inside the door, then all the way inside. DO NOT force the dog to enter.
- Continue tossing treats or toys into the crate until your dog will calmly go all the way in. This could take anywhere from a few minutes to a few days.

STEP THREE: FEED YOUR DOG IN THE CRATE

Feeding your dog their meals in the crate will help them form a positive association with being in the crate.

- If your dog readily enters the crate when beginning this step, place the food dish all the way at the back of the crate.
- If they remain reluctant, put the dish as far inside as they will go without becoming anxious. Place the food dish a little farther back with each feeding.

- Once your dog is eating comfortably in the crate, close the door while they are eating. The first time you do this; open the door as soon as they are done. With each successful feeding, leave the door closed a few minutes longer until they are staying in the crate up to ten minutes after eating.
- If they begin to whine, let them out. You may have increased the length of time too quickly. Next time, try leaving them in the crate for a shorter time. If they do whine this time, do not let them out until it stops. Otherwise, they will learn that the way to get out of the crate is to cry.

STEP FOUR: LENGTHEN THE CRATING PERIODS

After your dog is eating regular meals in the crate with no sign of fear or anxiety, you can confine them there for short periods of time while you are home.

- Call them over to the crate and give them a treat. Then give them a command to enter, such as "kennel." Encourage them by pointing to the inside of the crate with a treat in your hand.
- After the dog enters the crate, praise them, give them another treat and close the door. Sit quietly near the door for 5 to 10 minutes, then go to another room for a few minutes. Return, sit quietly again for a short time, and let them out.
- Repeat this process several times/day, gradually increasing the length of time you leave them in the crate and the length of time you are out of their sight.

STEP FIVE (PART A) CRATE YOUR DOG WHEN YOU LEAVE THE HOUSE

After your dog can spend about 30 minutes in the crate without becoming anxious, you can begin

leaving them crated for short periods when you leave the house.

- Put them in the crate using your regular command and a treat. You may also want to leave a few toys in the crate.
- Vary at what point in your "getting ready to leave" routine you put the dog in the crate. They should not be crated for a long time before you leave. You can crate them anywhere from 5-20 minutes before leaving.
- Do not make your departure emotional or prolonged. Praise your dog briefly, give him a treat for entering the crate, then leave quietly.

When you return home do not reward your dog for excited behavior. Keep arrivals low key to avoid increasing their anxiety over when you will return.

STEP FIVE (PART B) CRATE YOUR DOG AT NIGHT

Put your dog in the crate using your regular command and treat. Initially, it may be a good idea to put the crate in your bedroom or nearby. For puppies, it is easier to tell when they need to eliminate during the night. Older dogs should initially be kept nearby so they do not associate the crate with social isolation. Once they are sleeping comfortably you can begin to gradually move the crate to the location you prefer.

KEEP IN MIND:

- ★ The crate should always be associated with something pleasant.
- ★ Training should take place in a series of small steps. Don't go too fast!

POTTY TRAINING

It is safe to assume that your new dog is not house trained. Even if your new dog is no longer a puppy, it does not mean they are housebroken. At one time, your dog may have been used to a schedule but things may be different in your house. The more consistent you are in following the basic potty training procedures, the faster your dog will learn acceptable behavior. You should be aware that it could take several weeks before your household is accident-free.

ESTABLISH A ROUTINE

Creating a regular schedule will teach your dog that there are times to eat and times to potty during the day. Generally speaking, a puppy can hold its bladder one hour for every month of age. If you go longer than suggested between potty breaks, there is most likely going to be an accident.

- **TAKE YOUR DOG OUTSIDE FREQUENTLY:** For younger dogs, it is good to take them outside every few hours. After your dog wakes up, during and after play and after eating and drinking are good times to take your dog outside to establish a routine. Do your best to come home right after work every day if your new dog has been alone. A little extra effort from you will go a long way for your dog!
- **PICK A BATHROOM SPOT OUTSIDE:** Always take your dog to the same spot when they are going to the bathroom. Use a word or phrase like "go potty," that you can eventually use before he or she eliminates to remind them what to do. You can take your dog out for a long walk or some playtime only after they have gone to the bathroom.
- **REWARD YOUR DOG EVERY TIME THEY ELIMINATE OUTSIDE:** Be sure to praise them or give them a treat immediately after they are done going to the bathroom. Do not wait to reward them until you are back inside the house. This is a vital step because they will create a positive association with going potty outside!
- **BE SURE TO ALWAYS SUPERVISE YOUR DOG DURING THIS PROCESS AND CONFINE YOUR DOG WHEN YOU CAN'T** (Refer to crate training on the previous page when you do have to leave your pet alone).
- **YOU SHOULD EXPECT SOME ACCIDENTS TO HAPPEN** - Its a normal part of potty training. Here are a few tips on what to do when they do:
 - Interrupt your dog when you catch them in the act by making a startling noise and immediately take them to their designated bathroom spot outside, praise them and give them a treat if they finish. Having your dog wear a leash at all times in the house can make it quicker and easier to get them outside.
 - Clean the soiled area thoroughly. Dogs are highly motivated to continue soiling areas that smell like urine or feces.
 - **DO NOT** punish your dog for eliminating in the house. If you find a soiled area, its too late to give your dog a correction. Scolding them, rubbing their nose in the accident or any other form of punishment will not teach them not to go in the house. It could lead to your dog being afraid of you or afraid to go to the bathroom when you are around.

A FEW OTHER THINGS TO EXPECT...

The following list is a few things to be prepared for when bringing a new dog into your home. Make sure all household members are following the ground rules so you can set your new dog up for success.

- Stealing food: Dog proof your house and never trust a dog to watch food that is within their reach (this includes the garbage).
- Jumping up: Don't encourage your dog to jump up, even during playtime. Only give them attention when all four paws are on the floor. If they jump, turn your back to them!
 - If you have guests over, make sure they are not rewarding your dog for jumping on them.
 - Teaching your dog to sit for everything can help curb these habits.
 - Observe your dog's behavior and use "UH OH" to remind your dog that paws up on things is a bad choice.
- Chewing: Chewing and mouthing should only be allowed on dog toys.
 - If your dog has something they shouldn't, trade them for an appropriate item
 - Do not encourage your dog to mouth your hands during play even if they are gentle. Always use a toy.
- Rough play: rough house play should not be encouraged. This can teach them that play involves mouthing, jumping and often leads to them becoming overstimulated. This often makes it difficult to calm your dog down if things get too rough or out of hand.
 - Start using a cue like "LETS PLAY" before playtime begins and "DONE" to signal the session is over and engage your dog in something else.

- Losing something of value: keep items you value in a "dog-proof" area until your dog has transitioned into your home and you have a better idea of what their behavior is like.
 - To most dogs, anything can be considered a toy and they do not understand which items we value more than others.

CHILDREN AND DOGS

Remember to always be patient with your dog. Children act, look, smell and sound different than adults and they may be confusing for dogs that have not been around them before. You should always supervise your children's interactions to ensure a safe, positive experience for both child and pet. Teach your children to treat animals with respect. You may need to establish ground rules for your children when they are interacting with the dog (such as; no tail or ear pulling, no yanking on the collar, no hitting or pushing, etc.). They should never provoke a dog into growling, barking or lunging. Some additional things you can do to ensure your children and pets are safe even outside of your home are:

- Help children understand canine body language so they can recognize when a dog is friendly, fearful or aggressive
- Teach children to pet dogs with one hand. Teaching one-handed petting helps children fight the urge to hug dogs and invade their space.
- Teach your child how to greet a dog by first asking the owner if it is safe to approach, then moving slowly offering the back of your hand for a sniff. Petting a dog under its chin or on its chest is less threatening to them than the top of the head.
- Children should not encourage a dog to chase them. Quick movements and a high pitched voice can trigger a dog to chase and jump on them.
- Avoid tug-of-war games, as this sets up competition between child and dog. These games can often encourage a dog to grab at hands or clothes.
- Teach children to respect a dog's privacy. Never allow a child to disturb a dog while eating, chewing on a bone or toy, or sleeping.
- Tell children not to look a dog directly in the eye. In dog language, a stare can be scary and rude.



INTRODUCING YOUR NEW DOG TO YOUR CAT

Some dogs do fine living with cats; while others simply cannot live safely together. Sometimes a dog can live with certain cats (depending on their age, temperament and activity level), but not others. Even if a dog has successfully lived with cats in the past, remember that each dog and each cat is an individual and each introduction may be different. Always pay attention to each animal's body language during the introduction process. Ideally, your dog will be loose and relaxed around the cat and not remain fixated on them for too long. You'll also want to watch your cat for signs they are displeased (like ears pinned back or tail swishing back and forth). Follow these guidelines to form the best relationship between your animals.

SLOW AND STEADY DESENSITIZATION

Initially providing the animals separate living areas allows both of them time to adjust. Put your cat in a room that the dog does not need access to with a tall baby gate across the door. The idea is to only allow your animals to view each other at specific times. Give your cat all its needed supplies (litter box, food, water, etc.) in the room. Let the dog view the cat briefly through the gate and then engage them in something else like playing or practicing training. Give your dog plenty of praise for being able to focus elsewhere. You may need to leave a leash attached to your dog to pull them away to refocus their attention. Continue to give your dog short viewings throughout the day.

Sometimes, just seeing the cat is too exciting for a dog. If this is the case, close the door and begin feeding both animals on his or her side of the door. This allows both of them to associate the smells of each other with something good: food. You can also swap out the blankets and bedding of each animal, giving it to the other. That way they can get used to each other's smell without overstimulating them.



Hopefully, through this process, your dog will lose interest in your cat. In some cases, it could take only a couple of hours. In others, it could take weeks to months. Remember never to force an interaction. Making sure both animals stay safe should be your first priority.

FACE-TO-FACE INTRODUCTIONS

To proceed with an introduction without a barrier you will need to keep your dog on a leash. You can keep a baby gate up for the cat to have a dog-free zone if they ever feel threatened. Allow both of the animals to be in the same room at the same time while the dog is on a leash. It is best to have two people, each watching one of the animal's body language. If the cat seems relaxed, they can be allowed to move around freely. If the dog is calm with the cat around, ask your dog to sit or lay down and should be rewarded if they ignore the cat. If the dog is fixated on the cat (staring, stiff and/or ignoring you) or tries to lunge or chase the cat, you will have to go back to keeping them separate. Continue trying until both the dog and cat seem to be happy and relaxed around each other. When no one is home or available to supervise, they should be securely confined in separate areas.

UNSUPERVISED INTERACTIONS

Once your pets have had several supervised interactions and you are positive they will not harm each other, you can begin to let them both move freely around the home.

INTRODUCING YOUR NEW DOG TO YOUR RESIDENT DOG

Even the friendliest dogs do not necessarily love every other dog they meet. The introduction process is extremely important to ensure they both feel comfortable with the new situation. The initial encounter will need to be a slow process; dogs have a specific form of communicating with one another. The first meeting should be done outside on neutral territory. If you adopted your new dog from DCAS, this will have been done at the shelter. Just because the first interaction went well, does not mean the dogs should be let loose in the home together.

WHEN YOU FIRST GET HOME

- Stay outside with both dogs and keep them on non-retractable leashes. Don't let them interact just yet, but allow them to sniff areas where the other has been.
- Be sure to reward your dogs with praise and treats for being in the presence of each other while displaying calm behavior. If either dog is showing negative behaviors, DO NOT reprimand them. That could only make it worse. Instead, move farther away from each other until there is no more of that behavior and praise/treat them.
- Once both dogs are calm, continue walking at the comfortable distance for no longer than five minutes. Make sure they are both going in the same direction but remain far enough apart where they cannot come into direct contact. Always give each dog a treat every time they look at the other dog and remain relaxed and comfortable.

If this initial introduction goes smoothly, then you can bring the dogs inside the house. Allow the new dog to go in first to investigate and go into with a gated area to keep the dogs separated inside.



INTRODUCING THE DOGS INSIDE

- Make sure your new dog is their safe room with a gate up. Bring your resident dog into the house while remaining on a leash. Next, drop the leash and allow your resident dog to approach the new dog's gated room. Allow the dogs to greet each other when they are ready. Do not force them to interact.
- Observe how they interact through the gate. Reinforce positive behavior with high-value treats for positive interactions.
- If you hear growling from your resident dog, pick up the leash, and silently lead them away. Then, ask them for a command they already know. Praise and reward them and try the introduction the next day.
- If your new dog is growling, you will need to work with him individually. Have another person working with the resident dog, asking for commands in another area of the house.
- If negative behavior continues for more than a few days or begins to worsen, you may need to seek professional help.

Once you are comfortable with both dog's behavior through the gate, you can take the gate down but leave leashes attached to both dogs. Make sure there is no food, toys or treats left around the home that the dogs could potentially fight over. Also, be aware of situations that could lead to conflict—for example, when the dogs get overly excited. Closely monitor the dogs when they are together, rewarding them with treats until you are 100% confident they are relaxed and safe with each other.

For a more in depth description, refer to the *Sound Beginning* booklet (pages 63-75)

ENRICHMENT

It is a crucial part of your dog's overall health to provide mental stimulation and enrichment. Some general types of enrichment include daily walks, social interactions with humans and other canines, using puzzle feeders/toys, training your dog new tricks or a game of fetch. Some types of enrichment focus on sensory stimulation which includes using sounds, scents and texture (such as a brush against the skin).

PUZZLE GAMES

Keeping your dog enriched does not mean you have to give them your full attention all hours of the day. Providing your dog with the following are great ways they can keep themselves entertained.



Hollow rubber toys like this can be stuffed with dog-friendly foods. You can even freeze it before giving it to your dog to make it more challenging.

Treat or kibble dispensing toys like this require your dog to think and work to get the food out.



Slow feeders like this are a great tool to use during meal times. These can also be very useful for dogs that eat too fast.

Spreading a dog-friendly food such as peanut butter on this textured rubber mat can be a very soothing activity for them.



DO-IT-YOURSELF VERSIONS

There are several household items that can be easily repurposed into puzzles for your dog. You can also check out the videos on our Facebook page for more DIY ideas.

Place treats inside the empty cardboard containers (such as egg cartons, cereal boxes and paper towel rolls), close up both ends and watch your dog enjoy ripping them apart to get to the delicious treats. You can even layer smaller boxes inside with treats between to make it more challenging.



Place treats inside an empty muffin pan and cover with ball toys. Your dog will have to figure out how to get to all the treats underneath.

SCENT GAMES

A dog's sense of smell is way more powerful than ours. In fact, it is their most powerful sense. Try any of these activities that require your dog to use their nose and exercise their sense of smell.

1. **Find the Food** - For this game, you place treats around the house or yard and let your dog explore. They use their nose to find the treats and are rewarded for it.
2. **Hide and Seek** - This game uses you in place of a treat. While your dog is distracted somewhere else in the home, hide in a closet or somewhere they wouldn't normally expect you to be. Your dog will inevitably come looking for you and give them tons of praise when they are sniffing right outside your hiding spot.
3. **Scent Identification** - this game teaches your dog to identify an object with a specific scent. You will need alcohol free scents such as lavender, peppermint or vanilla. Take two similar objects and rub the scent on one of them and place them on the ground a few feet from each other. Allow your dog to approach the items and praise them or give them treats when they sniff the scented object. Switch the position of the objects and try again. Your dog is rewarded each time they smell the scented object.

USING SOUND

Playing calming or classical music for your dog can be one of the best ways to help them relax. This can be very helpful at times they are stressed, such as when they are left alone or riding in the car.

You can also read out loud to your dog. They may not be able to understand what you are reading but your voice can be very calming. This can also be a great activity for children and make reading more fun for them!

DOG OWNER FAQ's

HOW DO I PROPERLY SWITCH MY DOG'S FOOD FROM ONE BRAND TO ANOTHER?

Switching the food your dog is currently eating to another should be a gradual process. If you change to a different kind of food too quickly, it could cause your dog's stomach to hurt and result in diarrhea. It is best to allow seven days for a smooth transition. On the first day, it should be 75% old food and 25% new food. Each day gradually decrease the amount of old food and increase the amount of new food. By the sixth day, the ratios should be reversed and by day seven you can use only this new food.

HOW DO I KNOW IF MY DOG NEEDS A DENTAL?

It is estimated that 85% of all pets have periodontal disease by the time they are three years old. This is caused by a buildup of tartar and plaque on the teeth that can lead to gum infections, bone loss, loss of teeth and other health problems. A professional dental cleaning is the only way to remove tartar from the teeth and under the gum tissue to protect your pet's health. Tartar may appear as brownish-gold buildup on the teeth, close to the gum line. Redness or bleeding along the gums may also indicate gingivitis.. Other signs that may indicate it is time for a teeth cleaning are: bad breath, drooling, pawing at the mouth, difficulty chewing and loose or missing teeth. Always check with your veterinarian if you are uncertain. They may be able to provide you with additional information on how to lengthen the period of time between cleanings.

ARE RAWHIDES BAD FOR MY DOG?

Rawhides are one of the most popular types of dog chews. Many people give their dogs these chews to help their teeth and prevent the dog from chewing on items in the house. However, many people do not realize they can do more harm than good. When giving your dog a rawhide you should consider that it could be a choking hazard, cause digestive blockages

and gastrointestinal problems. Some rawhides contain deadly poisons that contaminate the chew with the chemicals used to create them. There are many alternatives to rawhides and that are less dangerous to your dog such as bully sticks or deer antlers.

WHAT KIND OF TOYS ARE GOOD FOR MY DOG?

Toys should be appropriate for your dog's size. Toys that are too small can easily be swallowed and get stuck in your dog's throat or intestinal tract. Each dog has a different preference on the toys they prefer. It is important to always monitor your dog with toys and make sure they are not consuming any of it.

HOW OFTEN DOES MY DOG NEED TO SEE THE VET?

Unfortunately, dogs can't talk to us to tell us when they are not feeling well. Dog's often appear healthy but it is an animal's natural instinct to hide health problems. Regular check-ups (usually 1-2 times a year) with your veterinarian are important because they provide the opportunity to prevent diseases or detect health concerns early. Another indicator your dog may need to see the vet is if they begin behaving differently, such as a lack of appetite or not getting up for the walks that once excited them. Drastic changes in your dog's behavior or attitude are usually indicators that something is wrong.

IS IT SAFE TO GIVE MY DOG HUMAN FOOD?

Dogs have a different digestive system than humans. This means that some foods that are safe for people can be harmful to your pet. Take some time to familiarize yourself with foods that can be very dangerous to your dog such as chocolate, grapes, onions, garlic and anything containing caffeine or alcohol. However, there are many human foods that are safe for your pet in moderation. Always consult a veterinarian before giving a pet with any health concerns (diabetes, weight issues, liver or kidney problems, etc.) any human food.

SHOULD I GET PET INSURANCE?

Pet insurance can be beneficial to help you cover expensive medical care in the future. There are many different types of insurance and it is best to do some research on your own to determine what is best for you and your pet.

POST ADOPTION SUPPORT AND HELP

Listing of Certified Professional Dog Trainers in DuPage County and surrounding area

PET HARMONY, LLC

Allie Bender CDBC, CPDT-KA, SBA
630-484-1791

petharmonytraining@gmail.com

www.petharmonytraining.com

- Serving the Western Chicago Suburbs and offers in-home and remote consultations.
- Specializes in behavior issues like fear, anxiety and aggression.

I GOT THIS SIT

Ali Evanson, KPA-CTP, CTDI
847-703-9655

iwhisperK9slisten@gmail.com

www.igothissit.com

- Serving the Chicago land area.
- Positive Reinforcement board and train offering many different services for dog owners.

A SOUND BEGINNING PROGRAM

630-776-8197

info@asoundbeginningprogram.com

www.asoundbeginningprogram.com

- Serving the greater Chicagoland area
- Specializes in helping newly adopted dogs transition into the home

BELLYRUB KLUB

630-542-3559

staff@bellyrubklub.com

OR

brkacademy@bellyrubklub.com

www.bellyrubklub.com

- Day care and training center located in Addison, IL.

CANINE CARE, INC

Barb Scalise, CPDT-KSA
630-289-9596

barbscalise@gmail.com

www.caninecareinc.com

- Offers a wide range of canine training, health and fitness services in Bartlett, IL

HELEN BOROSAK, CPDT-KA

630-289-3096

hbgolden@comcast.net

- Serving clients in Carol Stream and Lombard, IL and offers group classes.
- Specializes in AKC and clicker training.

ANIMAL INTUITIONS

Amber Walker, KPA-CTP
630-537-8779

amber@aitrainers.com

www.aitrainers.com

- Serving Batavia, Geneva, St. Charles and surrounding area in IL.
- Offers in-home training consultations and testing for Canine Good Citizen and therapy dog certifications.

ALLISON M. BRUDNEY

630-750-3741

allison@ptwdogtraining.com

www.ptwdogtraining.com

- Serving the Western Chicago suburbs and offers private training, group training and pet sitting services.



CANINE WELLNESS, INC

Gina Crimmins, CPDT-KA

630-736-2115

s_g_crimmins@sbcglobal.net

www.caninewellnessinc.com

- Serving the Western and Northwestern suburbs of Chicago
- Offering puppy and adult manners classes, Canine Good Citizen classes and in-home sessions

CONSUMMATE CANINE COMPANIONS

Lisa Rodrigues, CPTD-KA

630-272-9370

consummatecanine@comcast.net

www.consummatecanine.com

- Serving Chicago and the surrounding suburbs
- Offers a variety of training and boarding services

DANADA VETERINARY HOSPITAL

Darci Reagan, BA, CPDT-KA

630-665-6161

reindeerdog@hotmail.com

danadavet.com/dogtraining

- Located in Wheaton, IL
- Offers a variety of training services including puppy classes

THE PUPPY PROFESSOR

Amy Saletta, KPA CTP

Maggie Fahner, MS

Julie Benson, KPA CTP

630-853-9727

amysaletta@gmail.com

www.the-puppy-professor.com

- Serving Glen Ellyn, Wheaton, and Lombard, IL and surrounding area
- Offers private, group and puppy training

MY PERSONAL DOG TRAINER

Jamie Juda, CPTA-KA

630-240-7850

jamie.mpdt@gmail.com

www.mypersonaldogtrainer.com

- Serving the Western suburbs of Chicago
- Offers private, customized training plans

BLUE LINE DOG TRAINING

Charmaine Anthony, CPDT-KA,

CBATI, KPA-CTP

708-491-9371

charmaine@bluelinedogtraining.com

www.bluelinedogtraining.com

- Serving Chicago and the Western suburbs
- Offers in-home consultations on a variety of training topics including basic obedience and behavior issues

DOGZ'N HARMONY

Aimee Busse, CPDT-KSA

630-992-9200

training@dogznharmony.com

www.dogznharmony.com

- Serving Burr Ridge and surrounding suburbs
- Offers group classes and in-home consultations

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF VETERINARY BEHAVIORISTS

www.dacvb.org

**Certified behaviorists are listed by state within the website's member directory. Veterinary Behaviorists are trained to address behavior problems as well as underlying medical conditions that may be causing or contributing to behavior.



DCAS SHELTER & ENRICHMENT WISHLIST

This is a list of the items we use most at the shelter. Donations may be dropped off during normal business hours.

You can also send a donation from home!
Visit Amazon.com to make a purchase from the DuPage County Animal Services Wish List
<http://a.co/cwdZJom>

DuPage County Animal Services
120 N County Farm Rd.
Wheaton, IL 60187

Monday & Thursday
8:00am–7:00pm
Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday
8:00am–4:30pm
Saturday
8:00am–2:30pm

GENERAL ITEMS:

- Blankets & comforters (new or gently used; no sheets or pillows, please)
- Top-loading pet carriers
- Martingale-style dog collars (all sizes)
- Soft dog treats & training treats (e.g. Wellness Pure Rewards Turkey Jerky)
- Powdered kitten milk replacement formula
- Small animal baby bottles
- Freedom No-Pull Harness (sizes Large and X-Large) & Freedom Leashes (available on Amazon.com or WigglesWagsWhiskers.com)
- Long-lasting dog chews (e.g. bully sticks; USA-made only, please)
- Pet stain and odor remover (e.g. Nature’s Miracle)
- Disinfecting wipes
- Paper towels
- Canned adult cat food (any brand)
- Canned adult dog food (any brand)

Daily enrichment helps improve the quality of life of the animals in our care. These are items that encourage the shelter animals to explore, learn, and engage.

- Bottle caps
- Peanut butter
- Ground cinnamon & nutmeg
- Catnip
- Lavender & chamomile essential oils
- Cream cheese
- Vanilla, peppermint, or almond extract
- Plastic buckets
- Empty water bottles
- Kong toys
- Plastic eggs
- Nylabones
- Fleece
- Yarn
- Empty yogurt containers
- Rope toys
- Tennis balls
- Squeeze cheese
- Cereal boxes
- Toilet paper & paper towel tubes
- Slow feeder food bowls
- Lickimats or Lick pads
- Snuffle mats
- Canned tuna
- Pipe cleaners
- Cardboard scratching boards
- Aluminum foil
- Wafer style ice cream cones



Dear Adopter:

Thank you for adopting from DuPage County Animal Care and Control. DuPage County Animal Care and Control is proud to be a part of the Hill's Food, Shelter & LoveTM program and we feed all our pets Hill's Science Diet.

We suggest that you continue feeding your new pet Hill's Science Diet.

There are many benefits to keeping your pet on Hill's Science Diet:

- Continuity and consistency of food helps avoid the stress of switching
- While feeding Science Diet, you are offering your pet:
 - Vet's # 1 choice to feed their own pet
 - Clinically proven benefits
 - Superior nutrition with visible results
 - Precisely balanced nutrition for every life stage and special needs
 - Natural ingredients, no artificial colors, flavors or preservative
 - Made in Hill's USA facilities (dry foods)

We are providing you a transition bag of Hill's Science Diet for your new pet. The transition bag is approximately 1 weeks' worth of food. There is also a \$5.00 coupon for your first purchase of any Hill's pet food product.

We also suggest that you visit Hill's New Pet Parent website where you can access the following:

- Your "Best Friend Guide"
- Identify the best product for your new pet
- Additional coupons worth more than \$20
- <http://www.hillspet.com/new-pet-owner/new-pet-owner-dog.html> (new dog owners)
- <http://www.hillspet.com/new-pet-owner/new-pet-owner-cat.html> (new cat owners)

Thank you again for adopting from

DuPage County Animal Services and when you choose Hill's Science Diet, you help our shelter and the Hill's Food, Shelter, & LoveTM program!



We believe in
Hill's Pet Nutrition.

